

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 08489 062125Z

67

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 069732

O 062042Z JUL 75 ZFF-6

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5134

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA NIACT IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 8489

EXDIS

MIL ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: ABDUCTION OF COLONEL MORGAN

1. AT ABOUT 1945 LOCAL THIS EVENING PRESS OFFICER ROSS RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL FROM AFP BEIRUT INVITING HIM OVER TO RECEIVE SOME INFORMATION AFP HAD RECEIVED ON COLONEL MORGAN. ROSS PROCEEDED IMMEDIATELY TO AFP OFFICE WHERE HE WAS GIVEN A BOX ROUGHLY 5 X 8 X 1".

2. THIS BOX ORIGINALLY CONTAINED 3 COLOR PICTURES AND 3 BLACK AND WHITE PICTURES OF COLONEL MORGAN, 2 TAPE CASSETTES AND A LETTER IN ARABIC ADDRESSED TO ME BY NAME. PICTURES SHOW NO REPEAT NO EVIDENCE OF ANY PHYSICAL MISTREATMENT OR DISCOMFORT. MORGAN, HOWEVER, APPEARS TENSE IN COLORED PICTURES AND IN BLACK AND WHITE IS ACTUALLY SMILING. TAPE CASSETTES CONTAINED BRIEF MESSAGE ALLEGEDLY DICTATED EVENING JULY 4, THE FIRST HALF BEING TO COLONEL MORGAN'S WIFE AND SON, THE SECOND HALF TO COLONEL MORGAN'S MOTHER, IN WHICH HE STATES HE IS WELL. COLONEL BENNETT FROM JUSMMAT ANKARA, A PERSONAL FRIEND OF COLONEL MORGAN, HAS IDENTIFIED THE VOICE AS BEING MORGAN'S. SECOND TAPE WHICH WE HAVE NOT REPEAT NOT YET ANALYZED IS A STATEMENT BY
SECRET

SECRET

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MORGAN THAT HE HAS BEEN WELL-TREATED AND THAT HE HOPES

CERTAIN DEMANDS WILL BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED.
WE WILL TRANSMIT AS SOON AS WE HAVE TIME AND PERSONNEL TO TYPE
THE TEXT OF THESE TWO MESSAGES. (3) BOX ALSO CONTAINED
LETTER ADDRESSED TO ME QUOTE DEMANDING UNQUOTE WE
TAKE FOLLOWING ACTIONS BEFORE 2100 LOCAL JULY 9,
1975. IF QUOTE YOU DO NOT, WE WILL NOT REGRET THE
LIFE OF ONE OF YOUR SPIES AND EXECUTIONERS. OUR
DEMANDS ARE THE FOLLOWING: UNQUOTE 1) TO PUBLISH
THIS LETTER IN THE NEWSPAPERS AND AGENCIES, AND TO
BROADCAST IT OVER THE VOICE OF AMERICA IN ARABIC AND
OVER ALL YOUR STATIONS IN ALL THE LANGUAGES IN WHICH
YOU BROADCAST. 2) TO REQUEST GOL DESIST FROM SEARCHING
FOR AND INQUIRING QUOTE YOUR SPY UNQUOTE
3) DELIVER TO KARANTINA QUARTER IN BEIRUT
30 TONS SUGAR, 10 TONS OF RICE, 3000 PAIRS
SHOES, ETC. ETC.
LETTER SIGNED QUOTE THE REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST
ACTION ORGANIZATION UNQUOTE

3. UPON MY ARRIVAL OFFICE 2100, I TELEPHONED FOREIGN
MINISTER TAKLA AND TOLD HIM OF FOREGOING. HE WAS MOST
APPRECIATIVE AND SAID HE HAD NO ADVICE TO GIVE
US. I TOLD HIM THAT I DID NOT NEED ADVICE, FOR WE
WERE GUESTS IN LEBANON AND OUR HOSTS SHOULD ASSURE
OUR SECURITY. HE CAUGHT ON FAST. I TOLD TAKLA THAT
I WOULD, OF COURSE REPORT COMPLETELY TO THE
DEPARTMENT. ROSS READ TO HIM ARABIC TEXT OF LETTER. I
TOLD TAKLA THAT OF COURSE I WOULD NOT
REPEAT NOT ASK GOL TO STOP SEARCHING FOR MORGAN.

4. TAKLA OBVIOUSLY CALLED FRANGIE, FOR 15 MINUTES LATER
THE ILUSIVE COLONEL JULES BOUSTANY PHONED TO SAY
THAT PRESIDENT HAD JUST BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIM AND
COULD I FILL HIM IN. I DID SO AND ROSS READ HIM TEXT OF LETTER.
ALSO, I MADE IT CLEAR TO BOUSTANY THAT I CONSIDER GOL RESPONSIBLE
FOR MORGAN'S SECURITY THAT I WAS NOT RPT NOT MAKING ANY OTHER
REQUEST TO
THE LEBANESE. BUSTOUNAY SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A STAFF MEETING
OF MEETING OF AMERICANS CONCERNED WITH MORGAN'S SAFETY AT 9:15
LOCAL TIME AT HEADQUARTERS. I OFFERED TO ATTEND BUT HE SAID HE DID
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NOT CONSIDER IT TO BE NECESSARY AND WE WILL BE REPRESENTED BY
COLONEL HUNT, COLONEL BREMER, LT. COLONEL BENNETT FROM JUSMMAT
ANKARA.

5. DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT TO NEARBY POSTS IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE.
GODLEY

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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06 JUL 2006

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TAGS: PINS, CASC, US, LE, (MORGAN, ERNEST R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006